

Message Text

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FOR: PGM/RC

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: SALT/DISSIDENTS TRIALS

REF: WATCH LIST JULY 10

1. STOCKHOLM'S MODERATE SVENSKA DAGBLADET EDITORIALIZES JULY 12 ON SHCHARANSKY/GINSBURG TRIALS LINKING THEM WITH SALT: "HE (SHCHARANSKY) AND MANY OTHER MEMBERS OF THESE (DISSIDENT) GROUPS HAVE BECOME LIVING PROOF THAT THE KREMLIN IN THIS RESPECT DOES NOT CONSIDER THE (HELSINKI) AGREEMENT WORTH THE PAPER IT IS WRITTEN ON....THE US IS IN A UNIQUE POSITION. THE TRIALS CONSTITUTE A CHALLENGE TO PRESIDENT CARTER CONSIDERING THAT HE HAS FROM THE BEGINNING DOCUMENTED STRONG INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS. FURTHER, ONE OF THE ACCUSED IS SAID TO HAVE HAD CONNECTIONS WITH THE AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND--NOT THE LEAST SERIOUS--THE TRIALS HAVE BEEN DELAYED SO THAT THEY FALL AT THE SAME TIME AS THE MEETING BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTERS VANCE AND GROMYKO WHICH OPENS WEDNESDAY IN GENEVA....NATURALLY VANCE IS RIGHT IN THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE MANKINDS'S OVERSHADOWING QUESTION OF FATE. THAT THE RUSSIAN HAVE COUPLED TOGETHER THAT QUESTION
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WITH THE ONGOING TRIALS IN A WAY WHICH RESEMBLES PRESSURE DOES NOT MAKE THEIR PERFORMANCE AGAINST SHCHARANSKY, GINZBURG AND THEIR HAPLESS BROTHERS LESS REPULSIVE."

2. WASH CORR FOR SVENSKA DAGBLADET, BJORN AHLANDER, COMMENTS ON SALT JULY 12: "NO ONE CAN AVOID REALIZING THAT THE SOVIET LEADERS HAVE CHALLENGED JIMMY CARTER WITHOUT BEATING AROUND

THE BUSH. IN MANY OPINIONS, THE PRESIDENT HAS PLAYED AWAY ALL CHANCES FOR SUCCESS THROUGH HIS CATEGORICAL DECLARATIONS THAT THE US DOES NOT INTEND TO "LINK" THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER POLITICAL QUESTIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION. THE ONLY CONCLUSION THE MEN IN THE KREMLIN CAN DRAW IS THAT THEY HEREAFTER CAN CONDUCT THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS AS THEY THEMSELVES THINK BEST. HOWEVER, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT BOTH SUPER-POWERS CONSIDER A NEW SALT AGREEMENT TO BE IN THEIR COMMON INTERESTS."

3. SYDSVENSKA DAGBLADET EDITORIAL JULY 11"....IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED AND THE SO-CALLED DETENTE BETWEEN THE USA AND THE SOVIET UNION WOULD CERTAINLY NOT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED IF THIS VIEW HAD NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO DOMINATE. HOWEVER, WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S COMING TO POWER IN THE USA, THE RULES OF THE GAME WERE CHANGED ON THIS POINT. CARTER HAS PUSHED THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS A MAIN ISSUE....THE SOVIET UNION HAS IGNORED CARTER, HOWEVER, AND THE (SHCHARANSKY) TRIAL HAS EVEN BEGUN PARALLEL WITH A MEETING OF THE AMERICAN AND SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTERS TO DISCUSS SALT. THIS CAN HARDLY BE REGARDED AS ANYTHING BUT THAT THE SOVIET UNION CONSCIOUSLY WANTS TO EXPRESS ITS DISSATISFACTION WITH THE PRESENT AMERICAN PRESIDENT...."

4. LIBERAL PROVINCIAL PAPER VESTMANLANDS LANS TIDNIGH EDITORIAL
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JULY 12 ENTITLED "IS CARTER TOO WEAK?"....."THE SALT QUESTION IS A TEXTBOOK EXAMPLE OF HOW THE PRESIDENT MUST REGULATE HIS STATEMENTS TO FIT THE NEGOTIATION SITUATION OF THE DAY....BUT THE PRESIDENT HAS TO FIND A SOLUTION WHICH CAN BE ACCEPTED NOT ONLY BY THE RUSSIANS BUT ALSO BY THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THESE MUST BE CONVINCED THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL NOT LET HIMSELF BE FOOLED BY THE RUSSIANS. IN THAT SITUATION THE SOLUTION MIGHT BE FOUND BY HIS TELLING THE OTHER NEGOTIATION PARTY OFF ON SOME IMPORTANT POINT AND IN THAT WAY DEMONSTRATING THAT THE AMERICAN INTERESTS AT THE NEGOTIATION TABLE ARE LOOKED AFTER WITH POWER AND TOUGHNESS...."

5. PRESS ALSO REPORTS STATEMENT BY ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER OLA ULLSTEN CALLING THE DISSIDENT TRIALS "DEEPLY WORRYING AND ALIEN TO A SWEDISH SENSE OF JUSTICE. THE TRIALS ARE IN CONFLICT AGAINST THE OBLIGATIONS IN THE HELSINKI DOCUMENT. THE PERSONS WHO NOW STAND ACCUSED HAVE TAKEN AS THEIR TASK TO WORK FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE HELSINKI DOCUMENT. THIS SHOULD REASONABLY NOT BE CONSIDERED PUNISHABLE. ONE CANNOT AVOID THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES AFTER THE CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE- WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS CONCERNED THE HELSINKI DOCUMENT-NOW HAVE RESUMED A TOUGHER ATTITUDE TOWARDS DISSIDENTS."

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